

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Durex Products, Inc.

#### Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center

#### Durex Achieves Transformation Through Lean

**Client Profile:**

Durex Products, Inc. provides screening media and wear part solutions for the aggregate, mining, asphalt and concrete industries. The company's Luck, Wisconsin facility employs 75 people.

**Situation:**

Durex Products' former company president had attempted Lean initiatives without success. The company's Lean journey truly began after company employees attended a Lean 101 seminar presented by the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

**Solution:**

NWMOC facilitated training in Lean 101, Quick Changeover, and 5S events for company employees. Concentrating on 5S events, Durex Products painted their entire shop to make it cleaner and safer. A new lift table was added at the Press Brake which improved operator ergonomics as well as eliminating product movements. An inside office was relocated closer to the loom area resulting in the elimination of unnecessary travel and an additional 460 square feet of space on the production floor.

**Results:**

- \* Realized \$14,000 in cost savings.
- \* Increased on-time shipments from 89 percent to 92 percent.
- \* Increased floor space by 1.5 percent.
- \* Reduced non-value-added steps by 13,126 feet a week.

**Testimonial:**

"The project managers from NWMOC were great; they would keep asking questions until we realized what we should be looking for. It's a transformation."

Todd Route, Plant Manager